

Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 AF-10 OMB-01 SAB-01 SAM-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 DRC-01

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R 170948Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1932

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USINT DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 2185

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MO JO XF

SUBJ: KING HUSSEIN'S VISIT TO MOROCCO

REF: AMMAN 2769

1. KING HUSSEIN SPENT FORTY-EIGHT HOURS HERE MAY 14-16
ON VISIT WHICH PRESS DESCRIBED AS BEING IN CONTEXT OF
CONSULTATIONS AND CONTACTS WITH KING HASSAN. PRESS ITEM
WENT ON TO SAY THAT HUSSEIN'S VISIT QUOTE TAKES PLACE AT TIME
WHEN JORDANIAN SOVEREIGN HAS MARKED WITH AUTHENTIC ARAB
SEAL BENEFICIAL ACTION HE IS TAKING TO CREATE CLIMATE
FAVORABLE TO CLOSING OF ARAB RANKS AND TO ELIMINATE ALL
CAUSES OF DISSENSION UNQUOTE.

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2. WE SUSPECT LATTER POINT TO BE REFERENCE TO HUSSEIN'S MAY DAY

SPEECH AND THAT IT MAY REFLECT MOROCCAN VIEW (PRESUMABLY MISTAKEN) THAT JORDANIANS CONTEMPLATING PLAYING REDUCED ROLE AT GENEVA NEGOTIATIONS. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL SPECULATED TO EMBOFF PRIOR TO VISIT THAT HUSSEIN MIGHT SEEK HASSAN'S ADVICE ON WHETHER JORDAN SHOULD CONTINUE TO NEGOTIATE AT GENEVA OR LEAVE JOB TO PALESTINIANS. IN THIS OFFICIAL'S VIEW, JORDAN HAD ALREADY RECOGNIZED ROLE OF PLO AND MIGHT BE SEEKING WITHDRAW FROM NEGOTIATIONS CONCERNING WEST BANK.

3. WHATEVER MOROCCAN VIEW OF KING HUSSEIN'S MISSION, THEY APPARENTLY DID NOT TREAT HIM WELL DURING HIS STAY. ALTHOUGH KING HASSAN MET HIM AT AIRPORT ON HIS ARRIVAL ON MORONING OF MAY 14, AND SAW HIM OFF MAY 16, WE UNDERSTAND THAT ONLY EVENTS SCHEDULED DURING VISIT WERE TWO-HOUR TETE-A-TETE DINNER FOR TWO KINGS EVENING MAY 14, AND A DINNER IN CASABLANCA AS GUEST OF PREFECTURE GOVERNOR MAY 15, FOR WHICH KING HUSSEIN HAD TO MAKE 80-KILOMETER TRIP TO CASABLANCA BY CAR. FOR MOST OF REST OF TIME, KING HUSSEIN SIMPLY STAYED AT ROYAL GUEST VILLA WHICH HAD BEEN ASSIGNED HIM (PRESUMABLY SAME ONE OCCUPIED BY SECRETARY WHEN HERE) AND DID NOT EVEN PARTICIPATE IN FUNERAL CEREMONIES FOR ALLAL AL FASSI, THOUGH ALGERIAN AND TUNISIAN CABINET MINISTERS HERE ON OTHER BUSINESS DID. SEMI-OFFICAIL PRESS GAVE VISIT MINIMAL COVERAGE, AND DEVOTED NO SPACE AT ALL TO IT MAY 16. COVERAGE MAY 17 PERFUNCTORY.

4. AS WE VIEW VISIT, WE ARE KEEPING IN MIND HAROLD NICHOLSON'S WARNING THAT WESTERNER SHOULD NEVER TRY TO UNDERSTAND WORKINGS OF ORIENTAL MIND. ON FACE OF IT, KING HASSAN, LIKE MANY MOROCCANS, WAS PREOCCUPIED WITH DEATH OF ALLAL AL FASSI, ONE OF LEADING FIGURES OF MOROCCO'S INDEPENDENCE STRUGGLE, AND THIS MAY EXPLAIN LACK OF PROGRAM. NEVERTHELESS, OUR EXPERIENCE WITH PALACE HAS BEEN THAT IT IS EFFICIENT BODY WHICH COULD AT LEAST PREPARE MORE ACTIVE PROGRAM EVEN IF KING HASSAN HIMSELF WERE UNWILLING TO GIVE MUCH OF HIS OWN TIME. JORDANIANS, WE UNDERSTAND (WE HAVE NOT YET SEEN ANYONE FROM THEIR EMBASSY), WERE PUZZLED BY RECEPTION. ARAB DIPLOMATS MYSTIFIED. WE WILL FOLLOW UP.

PARKER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, PEACE TALKS, MEETING DELEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974RABAT02185
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740122-0849
From: RABAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740538/aaaabhsk.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: AMMAN 2769
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 APR 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <25 FEB 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KING HUSSEIN'S VISIT TO MOROCCO
TAGS: PFOR, MO, JO, XF, GENEVA, (HUSSEIN)
To: STATE AMMAN
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005